United Nations E/CN.6/2019/NGO/104

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
4 December 2018

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women
Sixty-third session
11–22 March 2019
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Statement submitted by Sveriges Kvinnolobby, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

18-20226 (E) 051218

Please recycle

Statement

To achieve gender equality and the realization of women's and girls' full human rights on national, global and on local level a gender equality perspective needs to be systematically mainstreamed in all social protection systems and public services. This requires the establishment of national machineries that can design, execute and monitor policies that promote the advancement of women in all areas. Sex disaggregated goals, indicators and data that is constantly reviewed and taken into account by the highest level of decision-making at all levels is a prerequisite.

Gender equality mainstreaming is a strategy that requires specific gender equality goals, sex disaggregated data, targeted resources, reorganization and improvement of organizational structures including agents with specific gender equality promoting roles and objectives. Therefore, to achieve gender equality, knowledge and objectives at the highest possible level of decision making is essential.

Economic independence for women is one of the most important factors for women to be liberated to take command over their own lives, be free from men's violence and gain equal power in the society. Stereotypical gender roles that define men as the main breadwinner and women as solely the care takers are still dominating around the world and are in some senses also being reinforced. Women's wages and incomes are still lower than men's, this leads to lower pensions and poverty for many women. The rate, if even at all, by which the pay and pension gaps are currently closing at is far too slow. In order to change this, proactive institutional changes that specifically promote gender equality has to be put in place. Such as the right to paid full time jobs, individual and non-transferable parental leave and increasing wages in the public sector.

Migrant women have a higher threshold to enter the labour market, are less likely to be economically independent and less likely to be integrated into society than migrant men. The main reason is that segmented gender roles keep women in isolating domestic spheres which hamper the integration into society and the labour market. Gender equality promoting institutional settings and earmarked labour market initiatives for migrant women are crucial to break this pattern.

A strong welfare state. A welfare state governed with clear objectives to achieve gender equality is an effective tool to redirect the unequal distribution of resources and power more gender equally. Care and health facilities, such as childcare, elderly care and care for people with disabilities need to be publicly financed, of good quality and accessible to all women and girls everywhere. Accessibility, affordability and quality need to be broken down in quantifiable indicators and include subheading objectives such as a minimum of personal, a maximum of distance, a minimum of time etc.

To end men's violence against women the institutions must have a promoting approach to abolish prostitution and make sure women in prostitution get the support needed to re-enter the labour market and society. Simultaneously the law enforcement has to reorganize their work and focus recourses on combating pornography and prostitution industry, sex trafficking, pimps and organized criminality in relation to the sex industry.

The Agenda 2030 often recognizes special needs of, and targeted actions for women and girls but in order to achieve the goals women and girls need to be agents and subjects in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the goals on all levels of the society.

Recourses to the women's movement and the shelter movement. A strong gender equality infrastructure and gender equality mainstreaming needs the knowledgeable

support of, and to be monitored by, a strong and independent women's movement and a shelter movement at all levels of society. Supplemented with practical instruments for the women's movement to monitor and hold decision making accountable.

We urge the UN member states to:

- Ensure the implementation of gender equality mainstreaming and gender budgeting in the preparation, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all social protection policies at national, regional and local levels;
- Ensure a robust and adequately funded comprehensive social security system that identifies gender equality goals, instruments and monitoring machinery
- Introduce individual and non-transferable parental leave, to promote that care responsibilities are divided equally between the parents, reinforced by ensuring supplementary social infrastructure, incentive frameworks and inducing tax-systems;
- Ensure gender equal pay and gender equal pensions by: increasing wages in the public sector, establish an ombudsman to investigate gender discrimination, introduce the right to full time work and put in place education and training policies with the intention of breaking the gender segregation of the labour market;
- Invest in and develop high quality, affordable, accessible and publicly financed care services across the life-cycle such as care of children, elderly persons and persons with disabilities;
- Ensure women's and girl's health by implementing sex disaggregated measurable quality objectives for the healthcare system that are systematically monitored and followed up. Target resources to develop the science of, and the institutions for, women's health in general and reproductive and sexual health in particular, such as obstetrics for ALL women and girls;
- Establish a framework to lower the threshold for migrant women to enter the labour market and access to language training. Introduce earmarked labour market initiatives for migrant women and introduce gender equality modules in the introductions and language courses in integration programs;
- Establish an old age pension system that universally finances a secure old age and reinforces the participation of women in the labour market;
- Ensure a coherent and integrated infrastructure that includes legal framework, law enforcement and support systems and institutions that work to eliminate violence against women and simultaneously protect and support women that have been subject to men's violence, this includes prostitution, pornography and surrogacy. Ensure social infrastructure on exit-programs for women in prostitution and put in a framework of a minimum of police officers, investigators other prosecutors to combat sex trafficking, pimps and organized criminality in relation to the sex industry;
- Develop coherent and integrated framework into existing social infrastructure to support victims of sexual violence and victims of men's violence against women including violence in the name of honour as arranged or forced marriages, child marriages and female genital mutilation;
- Women's and girls' security and access to public spaces, including public transport and outdoor spaces must be guaranteed according to the agenda 2030 goals, to ensure this, we also urge that women and girls should be a part of the planning and mapping of public spaces and infrastructure;

- Provide predictable and earmarked resources for the women's movement on national, regional, local levels and subject-specific organizations.

About Sveriges Kvinnolobby (Swedish Women's Lobby):

The Swedish Women's Lobby (SWL) is a politically and religiously independent umbrella organization for women's organizations in Sweden. We work to fulfill women's full human rights and towards a gender equal society within Sweden, the European Union and internationally. The Swedish Women's Lobby is based on feminist grounds and gather 45 member organizations. The foundations of our activities are CEDAW and the Beijing Platform for Action.